

PRESIDENT ASKS POWER TO TAKE OVER TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE LINES

Recommends Control of Telegraph and Telephone

WILSON WANTS CONGRESS TO ACT Resolution Before Committee to Carry Out Executive's Wishes

FAVORABLE REPORT MAY BE GIVEN TODAY

Baker, Burleson and Daniels Support Government Operation Proposal

CALL STEP IMPERATIVE Hold Threatened Tie-Up

Would Imperil Nation's Military Plans

By the Associated Press Washington, July 1.

Government control and operation of the nation's telegraph and telephone systems was recommended to Congress today by President Wilson.

In the face of an impending strike of union operators employed by the Western Union Company, an effort will be made to put through before the recess of Congress this week pending legislation empowering the President to take over the systems.

Members of Congress said today that the Attorney General had advised the President that he is without authority under existing law to take over the lines and that if necessary, for action arose with Congress in recess he would be without power to act.

Now Lacks Authority

Letters of approval also were sent by Secretary Daniels and Baker and Postmaster General Burleson, whose opinions had been sought by the committee.

The resolution granting the President power to take over the wire systems, which was introduced by Representative Russell, of Louisiana, reads:

"That the President, if in his discretion it is deemed desirable in order to insure their continuous operation or to guard the secrecy of military and governmental communications, may, by executive proclamation, take over the telegraph, telephone, cable and radio systems, and operate the same subject to such conditions of law, so far as applicable, which are in force as to steam railroads while under Federal control."

Postmaster General Burleson in a letter, which the President approved as stating the reasons "truly," advised Chairman Sims that the power and discretion to act, as proposed in the resolution, "seems imperative to safeguard public interests."

Sees Peril to Nation

The Postmaster General added: "At this moment the paralysis of a large part of the system of telegraph communication is threatened with possible consequences prejudicial to our military preparations and other public activities that might prove serious and disastrous. We are reminded that there is not a nation engaged in the war that entrusts its military or other communications to the system of any telegraph, telephone, cable or radio system, and it seems to me that our duty is not merely to approve, but to urge the passage of the resolution in order that the President may act, if necessary, to safeguard the interests of the country during the prosecution of the war."

Secretary Daniels wrote: "I believe that such resolution is of high military importance and that during this period of war the commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy ought to have the power to take possession and control of any telegraph, telephone, cable or radio system, and operate the same subject to such conditions of law, so far as applicable, which are in force as to steam railroads while under Federal control. It was found absolutely necessary early in the war to take control of radio systems and I think it is almost as important that the President should have the power to control all methods of communication."

WIRE COMPANIES ARE ASTONISHED

Officials here of the Western Union Telegraph Company and the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company expressed astonishment today at President Wilson's request for power to take over the country's telegraph and telephone lines.

The possibility of a strike by commercial telegraph and telephone operators was one of the factors in the President's decision, it was believed.

The Commercial Telegraphers' Union threatened to call a strike on the day the Western Union lines beginning next Monday.

In the absence from the city of L. H. Kinnard, vice-president and general manager, and J. H. Crossman, Jr., general manager and superintendent of the Bell Telephone Company, officials of

PHILADELPHIANS KILLED IN ACTION



Richard J. Weiser, 2862 Mercer street (at the left), and John J. Simcoe, 842 East Westmoreland street (at the right), have both been reported killed at the front in France. Abraham Kauffman, 338 South street (below), is named on the list of severely wounded.

TWO FROM CITY SLAIN IN ACTION

Kensington Mill Workers Lost—Four Philadelphians Wounded

BATTLED SIDE BY SIDE

Two Philadelphia youths were killed in action and four were severely wounded in the recent heavy fighting of the American overseas forces, according to the latest casualty lists announced by the War Department.

Those wounded are: RICHARD J. WEISER, 2862 Mercer street; JOHN J. SIMCOE, 842 East Westmoreland street; ABRAHAM KAUFFMAN, 338 South street; and PHILIP J. GIBBS, 1212 North 22nd street.

Private Weiser and Simcoe, who were killed, were both millworkers in the Kensington district before enlistment. Although they were unknown to each other, so far as their parents knew, both enlisted about the same time, arrived in France at the same time and finally, as members of the same infantry regiment, were reported killed in action on the same day.

Both Weiser and Simcoe arrived in France three months ago. Weiser was twenty-seven years old and was married; his wife and a four-year-old son residing at Cramer Hill, N. J. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. August Weiser, reside at 2862 Mercer street.

Simcoe was twenty years old, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Simcoe. He enlisted at Philadelphia, Pa., and was reported killed in action on the same day.

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DRAFT CHARGES DUE TO POLITICS, JUDGE INTIMATES

Charge to Federal Grand Jury Warns Against Enmity Rumors

PRaises LOCAL BOARDS

Urges, However, That Probe Which Starts Today Be Conducted Fearlessly

Judge Dickinson, in a stirring charge today to members of the special Federal Grand Jury called to probe draft conditions here, praised the Philadelphia draft boards, and told the jurors they may find "political enmity" in back of many of the accusations.

He instructed the jury, however, that should it find the charges against the local draft boards to be unfounded, a true bill of indictment should be returned, "let the chips fall where they may."

A charge of malfeasance in office is sometimes made by an enemy, Judge Dickinson declared, "and where you find there is no ground for accusations, it is your duty to protect and shield the innocent from the attacks of many of them professional men of high standing in their community and with highest motives toward carrying out the draft regulations."

Warns Against Rumors

"You will, gentlemen, throw out all sensational charges which have for their foundations rumors—rumors emanating from political sources."

"The investigators have had all the means at their disposal to produce evidence. That is their business and solemn duty to their country which they have sworn to uphold. Heed their evidence."

"When charges are made to show that disloyalty exists in any of these boards, you will please demand that they be well founded."

Judge Dickinson urged the jury not to find a true bill unless positively convinced of the guilt of members of the boards.

Three Jurors Ask Release

At the calling of the jurors three members arose and asked to be dismissed from serving on the grand jury.

The first of these Judge Dickinson declared that it would be a bad precedent should he allow him to be released of his jury duty.

United States Attorney Kane was in session by the side of the court early in the afternoon.

Expect Crowder's Envoy Today

Coincident with the start of the Federal probe, Lieutenant Colonel Esby-Smith, personal representative of Provost Marshal Crowder, is expected to arrive here today to take a hand in the enlightenment of draft board members as to their duties.

District and local board members have been summoned to appear at City Hall today at 10 o'clock.

His coming here is the result of a recent trip made to Washington, D. C., by Frank C. Hammond, secretary of District Board No. 2, against which charges of irregularities were filed some time ago.

Tired of Insinuations

"We grew tired of insinuations cast upon our official integrity," said Mr. Williams today. "I might say, with two additional emphases, thoroughly tired of it. We asked Major Murdock to come here from Harrisburg, and we asked after waiting for some time to be made from the direction of Harrisburg, we finally decided, Doctor Hammond and I, to try Washington."

Major W. G. Murdock, head of the State draft organization, is also expected to arrive here today. It is thought he will attend the City Hall meetings, which will continue tomorrow and Wednesday nights.

General Crowder has been conducting an investigation in this city for the last few weeks, with regard to many complaints of improper classification and irregularities. The results of his investigation have not yet been disclosed.

An indication of his findings, however, is contained in new regulations to local boards sent out from State draft headquarters. The regulations call for special scrutiny of the questionnaires of men in Class 4. It is said many married men, without children, have been placed in this class, whereas they should have been placed in Class 2.

Government appeal agents are instructed to make careful investigation of these classifications and to appeal to the district boards in all cases where it is thought the registrant is improperly classified, while the appeal boards are instructed to give precedence to all such appeals by the Government agents.

The boards have been requested to have their reclassification reports ready by July 15.

The Fifth Ward draft board will figure largely in the sessions of the Federal Grand Jury. Already many registration cases have been opened, among these being Richard Perleman, who was kept from going to Camp Meade that he might tell the jurors of his charges that politics and personal favoritism played a part in his classification.

GAINS MADE AT THREE POINTS BY FRENCH AND BRITISH TROOPS

Both the French and the British continued yesterday and last night their recently adopted program of prodding the Germans at various points along the Franco-Belgian line, capturing a vantage point here and there and harassing the enemy while the preparations for the resumption of his offensive are under way.

The French hit the line in local attacks at two separate points, but both on the western side of the German salient, which projects down to the Marne from the Aisne. They gained ground in each attack and took prisoners and machine guns.

The most pronounced gain was effected by General Petain's troops, just above the point where their line joins the American sectors northwest of Belleau Wood. They advanced here south of the Valois-Vinly railroad. In addition, they held on firmly to the ground gained the night previous just to the north, in the region of Mosloy, fighting off two German counter-attacks.

Southwest of Soissons, where the brilliant stroke of last week placed the French in a strong position on the important Laversine plateau, they moved ahead again in the center of their new line, gaining ground by the capture of a strong point north of Cutry.

In all the French took some 200 prisoners in these actions. The British stroke, which was also a local operation, was well toward the southern end of their line, just above Albert, north of the Somme River. An improvement in the British positions was effected here and machine-guns and prisoners fell into their hands.

MICHAEL SEEKS OVERTHROW OF RED GUARD RULE

Former Czar's Brother Considers It His Duty to Restore Russia

RAISE VOLUNTEER ARMY

Ukraine Plans to Create New Fighting of Eight Corps

By the Associated Press London, July 1.

Grand Duke Michael, brother of the former Czar, is reported to have issued a manifesto stating that he considered it his duty to restore and regenerate the Russian people, say an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Moscow, under date of June 25. He calls upon the people to overthrow the present Government.

The Grand Duke's appeal for the ouster of the Bolshevik Government is based upon the dissolution of the constituent assembly which was called to decide upon Russia's form of government, the Bolsheviks resulting in the disintegration of Russia, the manifesto declares.

Amnesty for past offenses will be granted all who take part in the revolution, the Grand Duke promises.

The manifesto mentioned is probably identical with one reported in an Amsterdam dispatch of June 27 to have been issued about that time by Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch. This manifesto, it was announced, had been adopted by the Russian people upon the Grand Duke's plan of government, the head of a new government in Siberia.

The volunteer army being raised in the Don-Cosack district is increasing rapidly in size, General Alexieff has been appointed commander-in-chief, and is directing all operations. This is reported in an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Moscow, dated June 25, transmitting advices received from Rostov.

The Germans, according to reports received from Yveresch, are advancing steadily, and are arming German colonists in the Tavris district.

The "Ukraine" Government has ordered the mobilization of all men who have not taken part in the war up to this time, and plans to create eight new army corps.

The Black Sea Fleet

The Bolshevik Government has surrendered to Germany a part of the Black Sea fleet which fled to Novorossiysk when the Germans captured Sebastopol, says an official telegram from Moscow. The other ships of the fleet were blown up by their crews.

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ITALIANS HIT ASIAGO LINES; CAPTURE 1500

General Diaz, With French Aid, Makes Winning Surprise Attack

TWO MORE MOUNTAIN HEIGHTS ARE GAINED

Italy Maintains Offensive on Entire Front, Making Big Gains

FRENCH EXTEND LINES

British Also Harass Enemy, Making Successful Raid Near Albert

Washington, July 1.

Striking suddenly in the Upper Asiago, last night, Italian troops, with the co-operation of French detachments, captured more than 1500 Austrians, including fifty officers, Rome cables to the Italian Embassy today state.

The communique follows: The Italian troops are now in possession of the peak of Echele, Col del Rosso and Mount Valbella.

"French detachments, who co-operated with the Italians, fought brilliantly and were successful. Through unpreparedness the Austrians were taken by surprise. Along the entire front, the Italian offensive was successful. Action along the left bank of the Piave, and the Montello salient were especially successful. On the Giudicaria important gains were made and additional prisoners were taken.

Smash Counter-Attacks

Heavy artillery firing from Italian batteries broke down determined enemy counter-attacks on the Zugna and Grotta, while action against the Giudicaria resulted in heavy losses to the enemy.

Heavy cannonading is in progress along both sides of the Brenta today.

Aerial activities by enemy machines over the Italian lines are increasing. Raids were taken to Venetian cities during the night, but were unsuccessful and no losses of life and very little damage to property resulted.

Reports received today of intense activity back of the Austrian lines along the Piave, tend to indicate that Austria is preparing for a new offensive, by military officials here.

Diaz on Initiative

Rome War Office reports declare that General Diaz is tenaciously maintaining the initiative along the entire line. The report states that the organization of the shattered Austrian divisions.

The Austrian general staff is desperately attempting to bolster up the fast declining morale of the troops on the Italian front. A new circular issued to explain the absence of German troops from the Piave, and the organization of the shattered Austrian divisions.

Though we have not our German brothers' aid we shall be able to show how we have improved their lines in the neighborhood of St. Pierre. A quicker we strike the more successful will be our advance and the larger will be the booty."

FRENCH CAPTURE RIDGE ALONG MARNE

Paris, July 1.—French troops Saturday night attacked the German lines fifteen miles northwest of Chateaufort, on the Marne, and captured the crest of the ridge between Mosloy and Pessay-en-Valois.

According to the report from the War Office the French advanced their lines nearly half a mile on a front nearly two miles. Two hundred and sixty-five prisoners were taken.

Last night's official report says the French have improved their lines in the neighborhood of St. Pierre. A quicker we strike the more successful will be our advance and the larger will be the booty."

AUSTRIAN GENERALS REPORTED KILLED

In a description of the recent fighting along the Piave, during the Austrian offensive in Italy, Lieutenant General von Ardenne, writing in the Berlin Tageblatt, says that the desperate Austrian attack on the Montello, where the line bends to the west, was undertaken with the object of drawing off the Italian troops from the river further down.

The writer reports that the Austrian generals, Bolzano and Schinnerer were killed during this fighting.

ARTILLERY ACTIVE ON FLANDERS FRONT

Activity by the German artillery in the region between Albert and Arras and in the sector of the Flanders front is reported in today's War Office statement. A heavy bombardment of German positions in the west, was undertaken by the enemy's trenches to the west of Dernancourt, the river Aisne, taking a few prisoners.

FLY 403 MILES IN ITALY

La Guardia Leads U. S. Escadrille From Milan to Rome